

grand banquet given by the New York chamber of commerce, to celebrate the surrender of our financial legislation to foreign domination, there was one speech omitted by all the great dailies. I found it in one of the smaller ones: "The next speaker was Rev. Francis Patton D. D., of Princeton college, who talked on 'Enlightened Opinion, the Indispensable Safeguard of Government by the People.' He struck an unresponsive chord by describing patriotism as opposed to things that are English and asked the audience to bear with him, even though they did not sympathize with his remarks." The audience was pro-English you know. It was assembled to celebrate the only great victory England has ever achieved over America.

Professor Patton made the mistake of supposing they wanted an honest American response to the toast of "Government by the People." He believed in America first. He was in the wrong crowd and had to beg of them "to bear with him." He struck not only an "unresponsive chord" but an intolerant English sentiment that would not brook American patriotism to interfere with English rejoicing.

It is needless to say that Secretary Carlisle's address struck a responsive chord. It was all that pro-English audience desired. American loyalty and patriotism was at a heavy discount. Think of it, ye sons of revolutionary sires, who fought, bled, and mayhap died that you might be free! The men in whose power you have placed the industry and commerce of this nation, by adopting the English financial system, do not hesitate to publicly rebuke, scoff and sneer at that patriotic American sentiment, that patriotism is loyalty to America first, and one of the most eminent scholars and polished orators of the nation has to beg of them "to bear with him" while he utters it.

#### THE CONTEST OF THE AGES.

The question of co-operation to secure higher prices for the product of our labor or even of legislation to better our financial condition must sink into insignificance in comparison with this more momentous question. Shall we as a people be free to legislate for ourselves as we deem best, or are we to sink to the position of a tributary province of Great Britain, the money centre of the world? If our present financial system is continued there can be no escape from that degradation. We are now paying an annual tribute of about \$400,000,000, and it is rapidly increasing. It is only a question of time when they will foreclose and that time has been materially hastened by recent legislation and usurpation. I know the contest is not to be looked upon lightly. The best thought, the wisest minds, the bravest hearts must come together in council. The greatest danger in the near future is from the starving thousands now eagerly clamoring for bread. They will not continue starving in the midst of plenty. An outbreak in any of the large cities will give plutocracy an opportunity to strengthen its position by an increase of the standing army, the bulwark of their prototypes in Europe.

Another threatening danger, and one I regret exceedingly, is the sectarian animosity being cultivated, especially in the west. I had hoped that the enlightened Christianity of the nineteenth century, when all the known religious sects of the world could meet in Christian fellowship at the World's Parliament of Religions, would have brought with it a peaceful rest from sectarian intolerance and bigotry. In all the world's history sectarian bigotry and strife have been most cruel and sanguinary. Can it be possible that this is another trick of Shylock to distract the popular attention, since the bloody shirt has gone into "innocuous desuetude," and the democrats have gone republican on the tariff? When I hear two people quarreling over their religion the first thought that occurs to me is that they both need conversion right away. The alleged danger seems to be the fear that the Roman Catholics are planning to invade or supplant our public school system. I am well satisfied that this can never be in our republic.

When we find by our census reports that less than one in ten of our population are Roman Catholics, the danger is at least so far off that we can afford to give our present thought to the more imminent danger of that other foreign potentate, Baron Rothschild, whose influence for evil has full control in our national congress, and in almost every state in the union. The great battle for humanity will not be fought on sectarian lines. True freedom guarantees that every person shall have the right to worship God according to the dictates of his own conscience. The battle now on is between God and Mammon. God's children are arraying themselves on one side and the sons of Mammon on the other. It is destined to be the battle of the ages and will be fought to a finish on American soil. I have an abiding faith that the victory will be ours. The hand that guided Columbus' barque to our shores, and piloted those gallant "hearts

of oak" on the May Flower until they were landed on Plymouth Rock, is still at the helm. I know that when we estimate the power of the forces arrayed against us it causes many a brave heart to despair. The money power of the world is opposed to us and in it we have all the powerful corporations that are fattening by special class legislation at our expense.

Through these again we have that tremendous factor, with comparatively few exceptions, the great daily and weekly press. In addition to all this we have the two great political parties entrenched in power and ready to co-operate whenever necessary against us. Little wonder that many a faint heart says, "No use trying, it can't be done." My brother, it must be done. Already two great victories have been fought and won on American soil for humanity and freedom, where the obstacles seemed quite as great. A little over a century ago, when Great Britain attempted to levy a tax on tea without their consent, a mere bagatelle compared with the tribute we are paying her now, our forefathers rebelled.

They said, "Taxation without representation is injustice and tyranny." The Tories said, "You can't," and pointed to the folly of a few colonists, divided, and poor in purse attempting to wrest their liberty from the most powerful nation in the world; but those noble sires said there is a principle to be defended, and with the God of right and justice on our side we will win. For several long years the clouds hung heavy over the patriotic band, but with abiding faith in the right they pressed on toward the goal of freedom. When at the memorable battle of Trenton the Hessian hordes were defeated light began to dawn and steadily their conquerors marched on to a glorious victory for humanity in the establishment of a republican form of "government of, by, and for the people."

Four score years roll around and again there is an agitation for human liberty. Four millions of negroes are held in bondage. It was a blot on a republic which said, "All men are born free and equal, with an inalienable right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." Again the obstacles seemed almost insurmountable. The money power, the press, the two great political parties were all arrayed against the abolitionists. For four long years the bloody struggle continued, desolating this fair land, but in the end the proclamation of emancipation was issued, and now no man need be a slave. A significant fact and a bright omen for the future is that "bleeding Kansas" is now, as she was then, in the forefront of freedom's host, striking for the emancipation of labor. While the brave boys in blue and gray were at the front fighting for their honest convictions, Mammon secured a lien on the vitals of the nation.

In the words of Lincoln, "As a result of the war, corporations have been enthroned and an era of corruption in high places will follow, and the money power of the country will endeavor to prolong its reign by working upon the prejudices of the people until all wealth is aggregated in a few hands and the republic is destroyed." Once more the battle rages. Again the Tories say "you can't." "All the power of money, with its aids of entrenched corporations, political parties and press, are against you, avowing that you can't win." Our answer must be, we believe we are right, and that God is with the right; we will at least do our duty and try. As the Hessian hordes are gloating over recent victories secured through the aid of the Benedict Arnolds of congress, many brave hearts are suffering like unto those of Valley Forge, but there is no faltering in the ranks; we still press on and on.

Kansas, always ready to fight and bleed for liberty, welcomes us, and in the sunflower state we meet to plan for the future. In that more humane contest for victory, by the ballot, rather than by the bullet, as of yore, glorious Kansas leads the van. May we not look upon the victory for our principles in Kansas in 1892 as the Trenton of the present conflict? Kansas, first in war, when that "inalienable right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" was invaded, is the good Samaritan; first in peace to hold out the welcoming hand; to pour oil in the festering wounds; to put the wine of hope to pallid lips; to bury all remembrance of the civil war by sending a confederate veteran to congress from the state at large. To-day the brethren from the south are welcomed to Kansas homes and hearts with a warmth more intense than that extended to the brethren from the east, north or west. And this is as it should be when we remember Ocala and the feast of fruit, flowers and genuine southern hospitality, which even Kansas will find it hard to rival.

If the Alliance never accomplished another thing than to bring about this fraternal union of the north and south it will have done more for humanity than any other organization ever performed. We have done much, but our mission will not be completed until our demands have been crystallized into law and every vestige of class legislation has been wiped off our statute books. Until "equal

rights to all, and special privileges to none" shall be a fact and not merely a theory. Then this republic will be what our forefathers hoped and intended it should be, a beacon light to the oppressed of all the nations of the world.

#### J. E. Dean's Response to the Welcome Addresses.

To the Governor and People of Kansas:

Representing the national executive committee of the Farmers' Alliance and Industrial Union, I voice the unanimous sentiment in thanking the Kansas Alliance for their kind invitation to hold our annual session in your capital city, and representing the membership of the Farmers' Alliance of the east, I thank you, governor, for the most cordial welcome you have extended to us. Your words used in extending the right hand of fellowship indicate the heart overflowing with love for your kind, and a deep solicitude for the welfare of humanity, and I can assure you your kind words will be treasured up by the delegates and visiting brothers and sisters of the Alliance as reflecting the fraternal love and brotherly interest which must be the natural and inevitable result of the education secured in the Alliance organization.

The facts and figures stated by you furnish most valuable food for thought, and I assure you that the members present will take them home with them to their constituents and they shall serve to awaken new interest in the Alliance education. Your mention of the increase of the burden of debt, both public and private, through the increase in the value of dollars, is a matter of vast importance to every workman, not only in this country, but throughout the civilized world. The power of interest to rob; the consequent increase of the indebtedness of the people; the increasing failures; the increase in rented farms and rented homes; the aggregation of accumulated wealth in the hands of the few, are, as you truly say, but the effect of a cause, and it is the object and duty of our organization to study out the causes which have resulted in these conditions, and agree upon remedies.

The Alliance is purely educational, and in this great work invites the counsel and assistance of all good and patriotic citizens, regardless of their politics or creeds. As fast as we can agree upon any cause that has aided in producing conditions inimical to the best interests of all the people, it becomes our duty to agree upon proper remedies, and regardless of past party affiliation, to stand solidly together in demanding the necessary reforms.

Party should never be held as more sacred than home or country, and to-day millions of homes are in danger of foreclosure, and the prayers of millions of Christian mothers are going up to the Divine throne, pleading for home, for better conditions which will allow willing workers to live as God's children should.

The 6,000,000 of idle people in the United States to-day, many of them being supported by charity, is a living moving prayer to the god of nations for a change in the policy of our government.

The \$300,000,000 of tribute paid annually to English capital invested in this country must make the spirit of our revolutionary forefathers groan in anguish at the degeneracy of their posterity.

A nation only 130 years old with but one-twentieth of the population of the civilized world, yet producing one-third of the factory products of the world. Thirty-one and four-tenths per cent. of the iron ore, 53.1 per cent. of the pig iron, 53.2 per cent. of the steel, 35 per cent. of the lead, 40 per cent. of the copper, 28.30 per cent. of the gold and 42.81 per cent. of the silver; a nation whose shops and factories turn out \$3,115,000,000 more products than Great Britain, should be strong enough to set up in business for itself, and choose its own material for money without consulting Great Britain or any other aristocracy of Europe.

As wonderful as are the productions of shops, factories and mines of the United States, the wealth produced from the farms is still more amazing, for after furnishing abundance to clothe and feed 65,000,000 people, you have furnished to the people of other countries nearly \$1,000,000,000 worth of farm products at the exceedingly low prices of to-day. The constant cheapening of the products of the farm by the development and improvement of agricultural production in India and Africa must warn the American farmer that he must study the question of employing the surplus labor of this country in producing those things which, while not seeking a market, add to the wealth of the whole nation and furnish consumers for all farm products at home. In this the farmer and laborer are brought together into such organizations as ours, to study the great economic questions that affect all alike.

And now, my dear governor and citizens of Topeka and of Kansas, again I thank you for the invitation to visit your city and state, for the hearty reception which you have given us, for the many provisions you have made for our comfort while here, and above all, I thank you and your people, not only in the name of the Alliance members, but in the name of every willing worker of the United States, for the grand struggle you have and are making for reform.

Overtaxed and overburdened farmers and workmen in every state in the Union, north and south, east and west, are to-day watching Kansas to know if you shall stand true to your

creed. Placing patriotism above party, principles above policy, public good above private interest, will you continue true in the defense of the American home? Will you stand firm in the advocacy of those great principles of justice and equity that shall guarantee the perpetuation of the republic of our fathers? Millions of God-fearing humanity, loving men and women are this day praying for your success, praying that you may continue strong in the fight for right, that your members may be increased in every state, your demands better understood until such laws may be passed and executed as shall guarantee every willing worker in all this land a home free from mortgage, surrounded by fruits, flowers and fountains, and filled with all the comforts of life, where he may reign supreme in the love, happiness and contentment of a happy family; a government made strong, not by bayonets, ironclads or standing army overawing the people, but strong in the love engendered by happy homes and a contented and prosperous people.

In conclusion, allow me to assure you that the delegates whom you are so kindly entertaining will make no extra trouble for your police or militia. They are God-fearing and law-abiding men and women sent here by their different constituencies to transact business of vital importance to civilization and they will do this in a dignified and orderly manner, and will return to their homes in the several states with the kindest recollections of the people of Topeka and of Kansas. God grant that the same brotherly feeling exhibited here may soon extend over the length and breadth of this grand republic.

#### Address of J. F. Willits on Behalf of the Kansas Alliance.

BROTHERS, SISTERS AND FRIENDS:—It is with feelings of the profoundest pleasure that I hereby extend to you, on behalf of the membership of our state, a most hearty and cordial welcome to our capital city, to our entire state, to our homes and firesides; and I assure you that we feel justly proud of the distinguished honor of your coming.

As the representatives of the great industry of agriculture, coming to us as you do fresh from the fields of every state and territory of our Federal Union, we gladly extend to you the right hand of fellowship and greet you with that fraternal greeting that has ever characterized the membership of our grand and noble order, ever hoping that your stay, however long or short, may prove to be a most pleasant and profitable one. Let me assure you that I but voice the sentiments and express the feelings of every brother and sister of the order in our state when I say thrice welcome to all. We welcome you to our state because it is the geographical center of a mighty government; because it is the storm center of a mighty political, social, and material revolution; a state born in the throes of a terrible struggle for human liberty; a state first in war and first in peace; a state that sent more soldiers to the war for the preservation of the Union than she had voters when the call was made; a state the first to hold out the olive branch of peace after the war; the first to bury sectional hate, the first to forget and forgive.

Now, my brethren, when we say welcome we mean every word of it, and you will find the latchstring hanging out at the front door of every home of ours in the land; and, as a further evidence of the fact of your welcome, our friends, the anarchists of the state, have, with sledge hammer in hand, battered the doors of this hall off their hinges, and thus bid you a free and unobstructive welcome to our public buildings.

You have again assembled here in the gray dawn of a coming century in your annual gathering for solemn deliberation, and upon the results of your deliberation here, and further action as citizens hereafter, depend the weal or woe of the mightiest republic of earth. We meet in the most favored land ever blessed with the sunlight of heaven; in possession of the most boundless resources that are yet undeveloped; surrounded with the greatest natural advantages ever given to mankind; with an intelligence resulting from ages of research and investigation; with an inventive genius that is the wonder of the world and the admiration of the age.

Surrounded by these conditions, and with millions of acres of rich, fertile land untamed by the hand of the agriculturist, we find by official figures that 25,000,000 of our fellow beings in this land are without a home on God's footstool. And while industry in agriculture and application to business have filled the burning granaries with food and provisions that vainly seek a market at cost of production, from 4,000,000 to 6,000,000 of our people are tramping the highways of city and country begging for work and starving for bread. One-third of the wealth bearing all the burdens of taxation; with the great producing classes engaged in agriculture owning less than one-fifth of the wealth, and paying 80 per cent. of the taxes, struggling, unaided and alone, against great corporations and powerful combinations of capital, guarded and protected by the strong arm of government; with farm values shrunken more than one-half in a quarter of a century; with more tenant farmers than any government on earth, and the number increasing with frightful rapidity; with more evictions of pleading mothers and pale, starving babies than in any monarch-cursed nation under the sun; with crowded penitentiaries and overflowing asylums; with the mingled prayers and bitter wails of sorrow ascending to heaven from every city and village the entire country over; with red-headed anarchy threatening life in the great commercial cities; with partisan courts; with a subsidized press; with a bitter prejudiced pulp; with all the power of church and state arrayed against the industrial classes, what wonder is it that the goddess of liberty has veiled her face in very shame, and the goddess of justice abdicated the throne?

The thoughtful citizen stands appalled at the conditions that confront us as a republic, and to-day we have but two great political parties—o which we can appeal—the People's party and Grover Cleveland. Choose ye this day whom you will serve. And now in conclusion, brothers and sisters, the prayers of an outraged and ruined people will ever follow you; and let me again assure you that you are welcome; thrice welcome to all, and may the happy associations and sacred memories of this national gathering prove to be the most pleasant and lasting that fleeting time shall ever hang on memory's wall.